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Portland, OR 97217

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

EPA-REGION 10

I am a lifelong resident of Portland, and I am not happy with the EPA's expensive, invasive plan for cleaning up the Willamette River. A different solution needs to be found because this plan will do more harm than good.

If left alone, the river heals itself eventually. The Willamette is far safer and less polluted than it once was. That is one reason why the EPA's reliance on old data doesn't make sense. You need to conduct an evaluation of the current state of the river, not the state of the river ten years ago.

Not only will the current plan recontaminate the river, but it could contaminate the river downstream by carrying sediments. I fish in the river, and I wouldn't be able to do that anymore (and certainly wouldn't be able to eat the fish since they would be exposed to toxins during the cleanup process) if the EPA goes through with this plan. Lots of other recreational users like myself would lose the use of the river for years. Not only that, but you have to do something with the pollutants you pull out. Ultimately, more people and wildlife would end up being exposed to toxins with the cleanup plan than without it.

The EPA's plan is also much too expensive and will harm the local economy. With a projected cost of a billion or more, residents could be seriously affected by increased taxes. No one can afford to pay more taxes. I'm retired, and I certainly can't.

Additionally, the area around the river is an important business zone. Shutting down the whole area will be very damaging. It will drive people out, people could lose their businesses, more people will end up on the dole, and the taxpayers will be supporting them. I don't believe the EPA's current plan has the best interest of local residents in mind. Please consider alternate solutions.

Sincerely,

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